



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dec. 27, 2002

Public comments accepted until January 10 on proposed GMD 3 regulations

TOPEKA – Water users in southwest Kansas who may be affected by regulations proposed by Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3 have until Jan. 10, 2003, to submit written comment to the chief engineer of the Division of Water Resources.

Written comments are to be sent to the Chief Engineer, Division of Water Resources, Kansas Department of Agriculture, ATTN: Annita Meyer, 109 SW 9th Street, Second Floor, Topeka, KS 66612. To be considered, they must be received by Jan. 10, 2003.

The chief engineer will consider all comments before deciding whether to adopt the regulations GMD No. 3 has proposed. The decision to extend the public comment deadline from Dec. 11, 2002, to Jan. 10, 2003, was announced at a public hearing earlier this month in Garden City.

Part of GMD No. 3's proposal is to close the district to new appropriations from a confined or unconfined aquifer within the district's boundaries. The proposed regulations do not apply to domestic wells, temporary permits or term permits of fewer than five years. They also include an exemption for quantities up to 15 acre feet per year, provided the combined quantity of exemptions within a one-half mile radius surrounding the proposed diversion does not exceed 15 acre feet and other basic requirements are met.

GMD No. 3 encompasses all or parts of Hamilton, Kearny, Finney, Gray, Ford, Stanton, Grant, Haskell, Morton, Stevens, Seward and Meade counties.

The proposed regulations may be viewed at www.accesskansas.org/kda/ProposedRegs/GMDs/proposedregs-gmd3.htm, or on the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3 website at www.gmd3.org/.